

School Finance



Wisconsin understands the importance of public education, having established the first kindergarten in the

nation, and consistently having one of the highest, if not the highest graduation rate of all fifty states. For that tradition of excellence to continue, our schools need financial support, and the system that funds our schools, created decades ago, needs updating to keep up with changing times and population. That is why State Superintendent Tony Evers has proposed “Fair Funding for Our Future,” a plan to change the way we pay for our schools. The plan recognizes the importance of investing in education, supporting every student, and is responsible to tax payers.

This plan provides fair, sustainable, and transparent funding for schools so that every Wisconsin child can graduate ready to succeed in college or career. The “Fair Funding for Our Future” plan is a realistic first step to bring our school finance system into the 21st century. The plan makes long overdue changes to the school funding formula, maximizes existing resources, and sets the stage for greater state support in future years. It invests state education dollars in every student and ensures that all money designated as state support for schools goes to the districts directly, instead of sending some through a complex tax credit formula. The “Fair Funding” plan also considers poverty rates as opposed to only local property values as a way to determine state aid to schools.

The Fair Funding for Our Future Plan:

- Makes our school finance system more fair, sustainable, and easier to understand
- Guarantees a minimum amount of state funding for every student
- Accounts for family income and student poverty instead of relying solely on local property values
- Provides additional support to rural schools and schools with declining enrollments
- Holds the line on property taxes
- Directs all state aid right to school boards
- Establishes predictable growth in state funding for schools
- Restores additional revenue limit authority to all districts

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The “Fair Funding for Our Future” plan reorganizes existing dollars to better serve our students. The plan implements long overdue school funding changes to ensure all school districts receive aid, accounts for families’ ability to pay, holds the line on property taxes, and increases transparency in a funding system that currently few understand. Reforming Wisconsin’s school finance system will pay dividends for years to come.

For more information, visit:
fairfundingforourfuture.org/